

FBI

Date: 4/26/68

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TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
 FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) (P)
 MURKIN
 (OO-Memphis)

Re Memphis telephone call 4/25/68 requesting summary of pertinent parts of investigation, Kansas City area.

Since determining that ERIC STARVO GAULT identical with JAMES EARL RAY, most of the pertinent parts of investigation in the Kansas City Division consist of interviewing prison officials, fellow inmates, and reviewing records at Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), Jefferson City, Mo.

MSP contains an average of 1,200 inmates. JAMES E. RAY was serving a 20-year sentence there for robbery, first, and operating motor vehicle without permission. He was received at MSP 3/17/60. He reportedly escaped 4/23/67. It is believed he hid in a box delivering bread from the main prison to the MSP Church Farm, a dairy farm located eight miles north of the main prison in an isolated area. There are approximately 250 to 300 prisoners at this farm. Subject's brother, JOHN RAY, St. Louis, Mo., visited him nine times during the period of his incarceration, the last time being 4/22/67. His only other visitor was another brother, JERRY W. RAY, Wheeling, Ill., who visited him five times during the same period.

Generally, the interviews with fellow inmates and prison officials revealed subject to be a "loner", and was called the "hide-out guy", because he would stay hidden within

③-Bureau
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C. C. Bishop

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Special Agent in Charge

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the confines of MSP for a matter of days at a time.

Subject reportedly used amphetamines and barbituates while in prison. He reportedly injected them in his veins by use of a syringe and needle. Fellow prisoners stated he had a difficult time doing this because of small veins.

RAY preferred to cell alone at the prison, was very quiet, and made few friends. The majority of those that knew him felt he was incapable of murdering Dr. KING. [REDACTED]

It was stated he did read "girlie" books and even engaged in selling and renting books at the MSP. He reportedly was "very tight" with his money, and used it mainly to support his drug habit.

During his period of incarceration he received numerous money orders, averaging approximately \$25.00 a piece. Most of these were sent by the two brothers, mentioned above.

Reports conflict on his anti-Negro sentiments, however, prior to his serving time in the MSP, he was incarcerated at U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Ks. (USPL) from 1955 until 1958. On release report from USPL, dated April, 1958, it stated "On 9/12/57 RAY was approved for our honor farm, but was never actually transferred to such assignment due to the fact he did not feel he could live in honor farm dormitories because they are integrated. Due to this fact, he was never placed under such status. He was assigned to bakery where he remained until released."

In MSP, RAY always worked in the kitchen or bakery.

One fellow inmate, MSP, stated that RAY had talked of previously working in the lumber industry in Oregon, and especially enjoyed the Rogue River area. Another fellow inmate stated RAY liked to tinker with mechanical things, and liked to repair radios.

Information was received that subject had made previous attempts to escape from MSP, but each time was unsuccessful. On one occasion, the ladder placed against the prison wall broke as he attempted to climb it, and on a second occasion, the rope he was using failed to support him and he fell, injuring his arm.